

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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Several alternative configurations of the LC circuit design can be considered to address specific biological and manufacturing issues. For example, in one embodiment of the sensor the capacitor element consists of two plates that are separated by a suitable dielectric material, such as air, inert gas, fluid or a vacuum. To ensure the long term integrity of the sensor, various coatings could be applied to the surface or between the polymeric layers used to form the sensor. These coating can be used to provide a hermetic seal that will prevent leakage of body fluids into the cavity or permeation of the cavity material (gas, vacuum or fluid) out of the sensor. In an another embodiment of the invention, shown in Figure 9, a sensor 270 has a multitude of capacitors ~~275~~ 272 formed either as separate elements or as an array. In such a distributed capacitance configuration, there can be a more accurate and more sensitive measurement of pressure.

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While a preferred delivery system is described above, it is within the scope of the invention that other delivery systems could be employed. Other such delivery systems are described in, for example, co-pending, commonly assigned U.S. patent application Serial No. _____ ~~[23401.10]~~ 10/054,671, filed January 22, 2002, incorporated herein by reference.

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The circuitry used to measure and display pressure is contained within a simple to operate, battery powered, hand-held electronic unit 400, as shown in Figure 15. This unit 400 also contains the antenna 402 needed to perform the electromagnetic coupling to the sensor. The antenna may be integrated into the housing for the electronics or it may be detachable from the unit so that it can be positioned on the surface of the body ~~402~~ 404 in

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proximity to the implanted sensor and easily moved to optimize the coupling between antenna and sensor. The antenna itself may consist of a simple standard coil configuration or may incorporate ferrous elements to maximize the coupling efficiency. The electronic device would feature an LCD or LED display ~~404~~ 406 designed to clearly display the recorded pressure in physiologically relevant units such as mm HG. In an alternative embodiment, the display may be created by integrating a commercially available hand-held computing device such as a Palm® or micro-PC into the electronic circuitry and using this device's display unit as the visual interface between the equipment and its operator. A further advantage of this approach is that the hand-held computer could be detached from the read-out unit and linked to a standard desktop computer. The information from the device could thus be downloaded into any of several commercially available data acquisition software programs for more detailed analysis or for electronic transfer via hard media or the internet to a remote location.
